

[~ViewInBrowser~]View in Browser[~EndViewInBrowser~]



Strengthening and Growing the Middle Class

May 2014



A Message from the Governor

This week I signed a bill to [raise Maryland's minimum wage](#) to \$10.10 an hour. Lt. Governor Brown and I know that families are struggling -- that people are working harder and harder, and falling farther behind. That's why we brought people together and forged consensus to give Maryland families a raise; we know that the only way to grow the economy is to strengthen the middle class. Now, hundreds of thousands of Maryland workers will receive a raise, and the extra money in their pockets will spur our economy and create good-paying, family-supporting jobs.

Increasing the minimum wage isn't the only thing we did this week to strengthen the middle class. We also signed a prevailing wage law and signed a bill expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which will provide even more help to Maryland families. These bills build on our previous work to expand the EITC in 2007, which will put more money in the pockets of working families.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's North Star is strengthening and growing Maryland's middle class while expanding opportunity for all Marylanders. We all do better when we're all doing better -- that's why it's important to grow our economy from the middle out and the middle up.



AROUND MARYLAND

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5-9, Across Maryland

Join [Governor O'Malley](#) and thank teachers across our One Maryland for making Maryland schools #1 five years in a row.

Bethesda Summer Concert Series

May 8-July 24, Veterans Park, Bethesda

Join your neighbors for an evening of live music in downtown Bethesda through the spring and summer.

Native Plant Festival

May 10, New Germany State Park

Come bring the family to the first annual Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival for presentations by plant experts and kid and teen friendly activities.

Recipe Submission for the 'Buy Local' Cookout

May 14, online

Join fellow chefs from around the State and submit your favorite recipe using a product from Maryland farmers, watermen, or other producers for a chance to share your dish in the Governor's Cookout this summer.

139th Annual Preakness Stakes

May 17, Pimlico Race Track

Head to the races for an annual Maryland tradition to see if California Chrome can win the second leg of the Triple Crown.

The Winner's Circle Wind Down

May 17, Belvedere Square, Baltimore

Come to this culinary showcase for the State's bounty and enjoy an Old Maryland-style cookout that benefits the [Oyster Recovery Partnership](#).

Governor O'Malley Speaks at

Thank you,
Governor O'Malley

P.S. Don't forget to share this news via Facebook, [Twitter](#), and email!

What's happening?



Biking across Maryland

Kicking off National Bike Month, Governor O'Malley announced last week that [Maryland is ranked among the Nation's Top 10 Bicycle Friendly States](#) according to an annual evaluation done by the League of American Bicyclists. Maryland is ranked number 7 in the nation, up from number 11 last year, and among the top 2 Mid-Atlantic and North East States.



Thanks to the passage of the landmark Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, Maryland will dedicate nearly \$210 million over the next six years (FY 2014 – FY 2019) to fund programs that support alternative transportation projects, including building bicycle lanes and trails. As part of National Bike Month, we encourage you to explore [many trails across Maryland](#).



Preparing for the Impacts of Climate Change

Governor O'Malley signed [two pieces of legislation](#) into law on Monday that will help the State prepare for the impacts of climate change and extreme weather in Maryland. The first, the Bay Acidification bill, will create a Task Force to evaluate and address the effects of changing chemistry in the Chesapeake Bay and other Maryland waterways. The second, the CoastSmart bill, will ensure the State follows standards to make safe and fiscally-wise investments when building or updating State agency structures located in vulnerable coastal areas.

"As severe weather events grow in size and impact, and our Bay's resources become threatened, the costs of inaction to our economy, society and environment will only grow exponentially," said Governor O'Malley. "This legislation helps us to get out in front of these very real, very important climate issues, and to secure the health, safety and future of our State and its citizens."

UMD Commencement

May 22, College Park

Governor O'Malley will address the Class of 2014 during the spring commencement ceremonies.

Arthritis Awareness Month

May 1-31, Across Maryland

May is Arthritis Awareness Month in Maryland, an opportunity to increase awareness and educate people on the impacts of arthritis. For more information, visit the [Arthritis Foundation](#) or call 1-800-365-3811.

For more events around Maryland, visit the [Maryland Tourism Office](#) and follow [@TravelMD](#) on Twitter.

POLL OF THE MONTH **What are you doing in May?**



MARYLAND TWEETS

Follow us on Twitter!

[@GovernorOMalley](#): I just signed legislation that will raise Maryland's minimum wage to \$10.10/hr.

[@GovernorOMalley](#): Happy Teacher Appreciation Day. Thank you for making MD's schools NUMBER ONE for five years in a row.

[#ThankATeacher](#)
pic.twitter.com/7CtX9w0kAN

[@StateMaryland](#): Maryland teachers are the BEST in the nation! Tell us about the Maryland teacher that inspired you! [#ThankATeacher](#)

[@MdAgDept](#): Reminder! The deadline for chefs to submit a recipe to the Governor's Buy Local Cookout is May 14. <http://ow.ly/wzQNV>

[@ClimateChangeMD](#):
[@GovernorOMalley](#) signs bills to prepare for impacts of climate



Marylander on the Move: Sean McComb

Maryland Teacher of the Year Sean McComb has received the nation's top teaching honor: [2014 National Teacher of the Year](#). Last week he was honored by President Obama during a ceremony at the White House. Sean is a teacher at Patapsco High School & Center for the Arts in Baltimore County. He teaches in Patapsco's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, helping students strengthen their work habits and academic skills to graduate ready for college or career.



"Teachers are the foundation of our success as a State, and the major reason why our schools have been ranked number-one-in-the-nation for five straight years. Sean McComb embodies what it means to be a teacher -- tirelessly preparing his students for college or a career after high school, and setting a great example of the power of creative instruction taking place in classrooms all across our State," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "It is with deep gratitude that our entire State congratulates Sean, his students, and his colleagues at Patapsco High."

Congratulations Sean!



Innovation Maryland: Electric Vehicle Tax Credits

On Monday, Governor O'Malley signed the [Electric Vehicles and Recharging Equipment-Rebates and Tax Credits bill](#) (HB 1345 / SB 908). The legislation extends a tax credit on the purchase of plug-in electric vehicles for three years, increases the value of the tax credit provided to most vehicles and enhances the incentive on the purchase and installation of electric vehicle recharging station equipment. Together, these incentives work to improve air quality, save consumers money and support local green jobs.

change& National Climate Assessment released today: <http://1.usa.gov/1nlXOAt>

@MDOTNews: @GovernorOMalley announces @StateMaryland in TOP 10 for bike-friendly states. <http://ow.ly/wnhpM>. @BikeLeague pic.twitter.com/UelnYkS7pn

Hashtag of the Month: During May, use [#ExploreMD](#) to share how you're exploring our One Maryland!

MARYLAND VIDEOS



Follow us on YouTube!

Last month, [The League for People with Disabilities](#) premiered their own version of the widely shared Pharrell Williams' "Happy" video. The video is an innovative new way to advocate for people with disabilities and to show the world that they are happy, joyous, and full of hope and potential. [Click here](#) to view the video and learn more about The League for People with Disabilities.





Following the bill signing, Governor O'Malley stated, "A key component of our strategic efforts to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 is to make owning an electric vehicle more convenient and economical, which this legislation accomplishes."

Maryland's Office of the Governor
[~Physical_Mailing_Address~]
410-974-3901

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

[~Forward~]Forward Email[~EndForward~] - [~Optout~]Unsubscribe Me[~EndOptout~]